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NOTES AND NEWS.

J. McKEEN CATTTELL, M.A., PH.D., Professor of Experimental Psychology in Columbia College, has in preparation a work entitled "A Course in Experimental Psychology." Laboratory instruction in experimental psychology is now given in the leading universities of America, Great Britain, Germany, and France, but owing to the recent introduction of the subject, there is no text-book. A laboratory handbook on the lines which have been proved useful in physical and biological science will make instruction easier for the teacher and more profitable for the student, and will permit the introduction of the subject in colleges where it could not otherwise be taught. It is to be published by Macmillan & Co.

—Probably no American vegetable product is appreciated less than the commonest and most useful of all, namely, our maize or Indian corn, which Dr. John W. Harshberger, of the University of Pennsylvania, has made his especial study for the past three years. His results have just appeared in an attractive volume which forms the second number of the contributions from the Botanical Laboratory of the University. Its botanical side is now more valuable than its study of the history of the plant and its economic importance. Dr. Harshberger has carefully exhausted the field of philology, archæology, and history in his investigation into the origin of the plant, which has hitherto been so uncertain. His conclusion, based upon a series of well-represented convergences, is that the plant originated in Central Mexico, between the 22nd parallel and the river Coatzacoalcas, and was first cultivated by the Nayas. From them it was spread southward along the entire west coast of South America, and northward over the great territory where it is now found. Light was thrown on this research by botany and meteorology, a very primitive form of maize having been found in 1890 in Mexico, which has afforded many points in the evolutionary history of the plant. Probably no part of the work would attract

more attention from the average reader than the table of the principal products of the maize plant, ranging from whiskey to soap, and from paper to baskets. Improved machinery is making it possible to use every part of the plant, and its utility, as exhibited by Dr. Harshberger, is quite surprising. The economic portion of the work is a careful review of the conditions determining the agricultural prosperity of the nation, and an appeal for a wider cultivation of maize in the districts for which it is best fitted. The work is accompanied by several excellent maps and botanical charts, and has been recognized already in scientific circles as an important addition to our knowledge of American plants.

—The first volume of the new series of the catalogue of scientific papers published by the Royal Society of London is now ready. Vols. I to VI form the first series and cover the years 1800–1863, while the second series is from 1864 to 1873. Vol. IX commences the third series, which comprises the titles of papers published or read during the decade 1874–1883. They have been compiled on the same plan as the second series, and in like manner include a certain number of titles which were omitted in former volumes. The numbering of the titles of the papers of each author whose name does not now appear for the first time is consecutive with that in former volumes. The list by no means comprises the whole of the scientific periodicals, which at the present day are being constantly published in various languages, but a supplementary volume will probably be issued, in which will be catalogued all the most important papers that have appeared from 1800 to 1883 in periodicals not hitherto indexed. Vols. X and XI, completing the third series, are already in press.

—Richard L. Lull has been appointed assistant professor of zoölogy at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Since his graduation from Rutgers Professor Lull has been in the employ of the Entomological Division of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, and has done special work in Maryland.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Works on entomology, botany and palaeontology for works on Indians and archæology. H. Justin Roddy, Millersville, Pa.

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WANTS.

DOUBLE honor graduate in Science and Philosophy desires a suitable work in science, of the nature of the following: Address, E. A. Beckett, Trinity College, Toronto, Ontario.

WANTED.—Theory of the Earth, by Hutton. Principles of Geology, by Lyell. Manual of Geology, by Phillips. Lehrbuch der Geologie und Petrefactenkunde, by Carl Vogt. Etudes sur le Métamorphisme, by Daubrée.

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WANTED.—A copy of Chapman's Flora of the Southern United States. I have on hand for sale or exchange sets of the lichens of this vicinity. List furnished on application. Address, C. F. Maxwell, Box 127, Dublin, Tex.

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WANTED.—Vol. Birds of the Standard or Riverside Nat. Hist. Preferred in parts. F. A. Lucas, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

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